

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jonathan Parthum (Reg. No. 64082) on October 21, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An encryption device for encrypting information on a unique confidential target, comprising: an imaging unit including a movable diffusion plate and configured to perform imaging by emitting light on a target and to output analog first and second signals,

the first signal including image data of an inside portion of the unique confidential target,

the second signal including image data of a solid imaging element located inside the imaging unit to create variation patterns unique to the imaging unit, and

the diffusion plate being ~~moved~~ movable into and out of a path of light emitted based on the signal being output by the imaging unit;

an identification unit configured to perform analog/digital conversion on the first signal having the image data of the inside portion of the unique confidential target to create identification information;

a creation unit configured to perform analog/digital conversion on the second signal having the variation patterns unique to the imaging unit by performing an algorithm on the second signal to create encryption key information;

and an encryption unit configured to encrypt the identification information by using the encryption key information.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for the allowance of the claims is the inclusion of the limitation, *inter alia*, "an imaging unit including a movable diffusion plate and configured to perform imaging by emitting light on a target and to output analog first and second signals" ... "the second signal including image data of a solid imaging element located inside the imaging unit to create variation patterns unique to the imaging unit, and" ... "a creation unit configured to perform analog/digital conversion on the second signal having the variation patterns unique to the imaging unit by performing an algorithm on the second signal to create encryption key information". The concept of taking an image of a solid imaging element by moving a diffusion plate and using this image to generate an encryption key cannot be found in the prior art.

The examiner would also like to note that independent device claims 1 and 11 are not substantial duplicates of each other. The imaging means of claim 11 includes the additional features of a first and second filter as well as a shielding unit which can be seen in Figure 3 of the Instant Application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. King whose telephone number is (571) 270-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM est..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John B King/
Examiner, Art Unit 2435
/Ponnoreay Pich/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2435